

LEARNING LEARNING

『学習の学習』

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In This Issue 今号について

Welcome to the Spring 2015 issue of *Learning Learning*, the Learner Development SIG's (LD SIG) biannual online newsletter. Springtime in Japan is synonymous with new starts and for teachers this usually means new students, classes, and possibly even schools. These all bring with them opportunities for personal and professional growth. We hope this issue reaches you just in time to give you ideas about encouraging learner development in your classrooms.

The issue begins with the SIG coordinators, Alison Stewart and Fumiko Murase, borrowing the conversation style of our website's *Talking Points* column to report on the latest SIG developments. This is followed by reports from local get-togethers in Kansai, Hiroshima, and Tokyo.

In the *Members' Voices* section, Hiroshi Nakagawa shares his experiences trying to foster learner autonomy through the creation of a positive learning environment to help his students become relaxed and engaged. This is followed by three submissions from recipients of grants in 2014: Adrienne Verla and Yoko Sakurai, who wrote reflective pieces about their experiences leading up to and at JALT2014, and Caroline Ross, who shares with us her grant application to inspire more people to apply for grants and her reflection on PanSIG2014.

This issue sees the start of our new *Creative Writing* column, which contains a wonderful poem to make teachers think about their students.

This month's *Feature Article* is by Soyhan Egitim, who writes about the need for teacher development in order to promote learner autonomy and shares with us some activities he has used to encourage learner

autonomy in his university English classes.

In *Looking Back*, teacher and student participants of *Creating Community: Learning Together*, which was held in Tokyo in mid-December, share their experiences at what all have said was a unique and valuable event. The *Looking Forward* section contains a preview of the LDSIG forums at PanSIG2015 (this weekend) and JALTCALL2015, coming up on June 6-7 in Fukuoka.

Many thanks to all the volunteers working tirelessly behind the scenes to make sure this issue arrived on time: James Underwood and Monika Szirmai for putting the issue together; Andy Barfield, Christopher Fitzgerald, Stacey Vye, and Alison Stewart for various editing and proofreading help they provided; Kazuko Unosawa for starting the Creative Writing Column; Yoko Sakurai for her Japanese translations; Mayumi Abe and the rest of the treasury team for working tirelessly to compile the SIGs financial report; and Hugh Nicoll for the work of uploading this issue to the LD SIG website.

Thank you on behalf of the Learning Learning team!

Mathew Porter